

## Cherubim in Eastern Mythology and Modern Mysticism

In the tapestry of Eastern mythology, the cherubim weave an intricate pattern of divine guardianship and celestial mediation. These beings, known as karibu in Akkadian, emerged from the fertile crescent of Mesopotamia, embodying blessings and prosperity. With bodies of lions and heads of humans, they stood as formidable protectors of the divine, their wings unfurled to instill awe and reverence. In the realm of Zoroastrianism, they mirrored the Amesha Spenta, emanations of the creator god Ahura Mazda, maintaining cosmic balance against the chaotic druj.

As time unfurled like the wings of these celestial guardians, the cherubim found resonance in the mystical traditions of Kabbalah, where they ascended as symbols of spiritual pursuit and divine encounter. The Merkabah, or mystical chariot, carried seekers towards the heavens, guided by the cherubim's unwavering presence as throne bearers of the Almighty. Their form, multifaceted with faces of man, lion, ox, and eagle, represented the omnipresence of the divine, a motif that echoed through the annals of prophetic Judaism and into the heart of Merkabah mysticism.

In modern mysticism, the cherubim's legacy endures, their images adorning the sacred texts and spiritual visions that seek to connect the earthly with the ethereal. They stand as eternal sentinels, guarding the gates of Eden with flaming swords and bearing the throne of God, their voices joining in the celestial chorus that sings of glory and holiness. The cherubim, though enigmatic, continue to inspire awe and wonder, serving as a bridge between the finite and the infinite, the known and the unknowable. Their story, woven through the fabric of mythology and mysticism, remains a testament to the enduring search for the divine within and beyond the human experience.